

# THE SCROLL

MAY 8, 2015

O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL | SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 7

## Senior wins first, best in show

Cheyenne Chontos  
Editor-in-Chief

On March 21 at the State AA Basketball Championship, senior Emily Groth was presented with a best in show award for the Class AA State Visual Arts Competition. Her piece, *Clairvoyance*, also won first place in mixed media. This was the first ever SDHSAA State Visual Arts competition and it was held in the concourse area of the Denny Sanford PREMIER Center.

O'Gorman art teacher Gary Siska was the one who entered Groth's piece in the competition.

"Unfortunately, you can't enter everyone in every competition," said Siska. "As a teacher you have to be selective; you have to look at a variety of factors including quality, content, emotion and strong visual impact. These are all areas that Emily excels in so I knew she would do well."

This is not the first award Groth has won for her art pieces. She has also won three Gold Keys, five Silver Keys and six Honorable Mentions from the Scholastic Art and Writing contest. She has also been recognized in art

shows at Augustana College.

"For inspiration, I start by looking around at everyday objects or people," Groth said. "Once I actually start drawing or painting, though, I add my own twist to it. I typically have a mix of realism and surrealism in my art."

Groth plans on attending the University of South Dakota in the fall. She is going into studio arts with a specialty in painting.

"Art has always been what I like to do," said Groth. "I really like [USD's] art program. I think that being in the program will make me put even more time in my projects, and it will broaden what I can do. I can't wait to be in the studio every day and be able to take a lot of art classes. Plus, I'm excited for the freedom of college."

Siska said that he has high hopes for Groth as she continues her education in art.

"Anybody that's trying to get a career in art must be a hard worker and very self-motivated," said Siska. "Emily shows that she has that kind of dedication. As an art student she's extremely creative and talented. She tends



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The theme for Senior Emily Groth's mixed media piece, *Clairvoyance*, is connectivity. It was on display in a case in the lower O-wing.

to look at life a little differently, and you never know what you'll see from her art. Her ideas are also always original and her pieces have a strong visual impact. As

an art teacher, you only see that kind of student a few times in your career."

Groth said that she would one day like to be able to support her-

self as a freelance artist and live in Oregon, where she can be by the coast and enjoy the large art community there.

## Boys tennis team set to finish season strong; team prepares for upcoming state tourney

Liesel Julsrud  
Activities Co-Editor

This year's boys tennis team is set up with high expectations. After a third place finish at the state tournament last year and 20 boys returning to play, both coaches and players have geared up for a successful season.

Despite graduating two-time state champion and top-ranked Tommy Entwistle, there remain plenty of talented players, including two seniors.

"We feel good about our team," said tennis coach Don Barnes, "We have some talented players returning. Our top players will be around for a few more years."

Senior Jeremy Bird echoes the same concerns about the leadership change, yet remains confident. "There are some very big shoes to fill, but we have a very

young team that is full of talent," said Bird.

With the team setup, Barnes is looking to be a team in the top five and even more. "If we continue to improve throughout the season like I think we can, we'll be in the top two. We continue to have high expectations for O'Gorman tennis," said Barnes.

"It will be a fun year, but we really have to work hard," said Bird.

This season, the team has competed in 15 tournaments and have only lost a few games, including to number one ranked Mitchell High School. The tennis team will compete in nine more matches before the season comes to a close.

The boys tennis team will finish their season at the state tournament May 21-23 in locations in the Sioux Falls area.

## Students to visit Greece, plan to tour ancient world

Liesel Julsrud  
Activities Co-Editor

This summer, students have the opportunity to travel to Greece with Customized Educational Tour Arrangements Tours, or CETA Tours.

Among those traveling are a large majority of the city's Latin students, including senior Karl Shlanta.

The tour group will begin with an overnight flight to Athens, Greece on May 28.

The trip will then begin to cover five major cities in Ancient Greece as well as a cruise through the Greek Islands within 10 days.

"I have always wanted to go to Europe since I have always been interested in Greek and Roman history, and this is a really good time to do it," said Shlanta.

He is one of O'Gorman's Latin students that will join the tour group on the trip.

Although people associate the trip with the Latin classes, it is scheduled through their teacher and the tour company.

**"I have always wanted to go to Europe."**  
-Karl Shlanta

"The tour is open to anybody, but most of the people going are in Latin," said Shlanta.

Part of the tour is a cruise that covers the Greek coastline, providing for wonderful sights.

The tour will be taking a four day cruise learning about the history of different port cities, early civilizations, and

mythological stories. Travelers will be able to explore cities that extend all the way into Kusadasi, Turkey. The cruise will end with an excursion to the island of Crete.

Among the five major cities covered, including Athens and Thiva, travelers are able to visit Delphi and Cape Sounion.

"We are also visiting the village of Oia, which is the town with whitewashed houses with the blue domes, which will be really cool to see," said Shlanta.

The final day of the tour will consist of a visiting the Temple of Poseidon, having an afternoon enjoying the Plaka district, and closing the night with a traditional celebration at a local taverna.

The tour will return home to the United States on June 6.



# Lady Knights prepare for state

Grace Wallin  
Sports Editor

The O’Gorman girls golf team has had a successful start to their season and hope to keep improving as the state tournament nears. The golf team has competed in five tournaments so far this year and has placed highly in all five.

Winning first place in dual tournaments this year are seniors Kelsey Johnson, Elle Carlson, Meredith Turner and sophomore Emily Olson.

Three seniors plan to continue their golf career in college.

Turner has committed to playing golf at at Northwestern Missouri State University. Northwestern Missouri State University is a NCAA Division II school.

Also continuing her golf career in college is Carlson who will play for South Dakota State University next year. South Dakota State University is a Division I school.

Carlson placed first in the 2013-2014 girls state golf tournament with a score of 149. Turner placed third.

Another O’Gorman girls golf member planning to play golf in college is Johnson.

“Our team’s biggest challenge is to not worry about the other players or our competitors when we are playing but just worry about ourselves and concentrate on posting a good score for the team,” said Johnson.



KNIGHT LEGEND

Senior Elle Carlson drives during a recent golf match. The Lady Knights will participate in the state golf meet May 18-19 in Pierre.

This season is Johnson’s sixth and final season on the girls varsity golf team. Johnson intends to play golf for Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. next year.

The girls team has several big invites coming up including the team city tournament, the team conference tournament and the team state tournament.

The girls golf state meet is currently set for May 18-19 in Pierre. The girls are hoping for a competitive and successful tournament this year.

“This season has been really fun,” said Johnson. “We look forward to improving and hopefully getting a state title for our coach.”

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Editorial Policy  
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# Choir to make trip to nation’s capital

Grace Wallin  
Sports Editor

This summer members of the O’Gorman Concert Choir will travel to Washington D.C. for what students and directors hope will be an unforgettable experience.

The trip, held every other year in different cities around the country, will take place from May 26-31 and will include approximately 53 students out of the 60-member choir.

“Providing our musicians with trips heightens their experience in a way that is unattainable with the classroom alone,” said choir director Rachael Kramer.

“Providing our musicians with trips heightens their experience in a way that is unattainable with the classroom alone.”  
-Rachel Kramer

“Students will experience a fun and educational trip with classmates, something they wouldn’t otherwise have the opportunity to do.”

The trip will certainly provide students with new musical experiences

as they will be performing at several venues including Baltimore’s inner harbor, the Lincoln Memorial and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

In addition to these events, students will also get to experience the National Mall and Smithsonian museums, get a guided tour of the Nation’s Capital by Senator John Thune and visit the Holocaust Museum.

“I’m most looking forward to singing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial,” said junior Taylor Billion. “This trip is great way to bond as a choir and is an incredible opportunity to get to perform outside of Sioux Falls.”

## What underclassman will you miss the most?

Luke Miller:

"Sam Billion because he's always willing to go to Taco Bell with me. He is like a better version of Matthew."

Ben Johnson:

"TJ Shaefer because our Destination Imagination team was bomb."

Sadie Facile:

"I will miss Melissa Sierra the most. Sometimes I forget she's a junior because we've had classes together since the eighth grade."

Easton Schuster:

"Jimmy Pio, I am worried he will be lost without me at school anymore."

Hadley Zeigler:

"Molly Doetzel because she can make my day in an instant."

Matt Billion:

"Christopher Patrick Schall because he has the golden locks of Sampson."

Sam Maxwell:

"Kelly Maxwell, she is the sweetest and funniest person I've met. I'm gonna miss seeing my sister out-performing me in everything."

Christian Heisler:

"Sean Miles - he's a beautiful animal."

# Senior powerlifter qualifies for worlds

Samantha Lenz  
Opinion Editor

Senior Easton Schuster will be attending the IPF World Bench Press Championships in Sundsvall, Sweden where he will compete in the 83 kg weight category. "It is incredibly rewarding," said Schuster. "I am thankful for all those that have helped me from the beginning to where I am at today."

Schuster was selected by having the highest weight in his age and weight category at Bench Press Nationals in San Antonio, Texas last summer. At nationals, Schuster qualified with a 365 pound bench.

"After I qualified I was very excited knowing that I would have the opportunity again to represent the United States and to go up against the best competition in the world," said Schuster.

In the upcoming months, Schuster will hope to put 501 pounds on the bar for worlds. Schuster has been working with his coach Jona Leo, who is a multiple time world champion and record holder. Leo writes up Schuster's workouts consisting of cycles of high intensity and load mixed with times of lighter



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Easton Schuster lifts at powerlifting competition this season.

weight and deloads.

"I am incredibly lucky to have a guy who is knowledgeable and so successful in his sport," said Schuster. "He has taken me in to his program and has been a huge reason to my success. I wouldn't be where I am today without him."

Last year, Schuster went to compete at Rodby, Denmark for 2014 IPF Bench Press World Championships to compete in the 66 kg category. While at Worlds, he placed fourth behind competitors from Japan and Kyrgyzstan.

While at High School Powerlifting Nationals this year, Schuster set an American Bench record in the 83 kg weight class with a

430 pound lift.

Schuster now holds 13 O'Gorman High School records, five state records and one American record. Also, he is a sponsored athlete of Science Nutrition here in Sioux Falls.

"My personal statement is 'EACH.' It stands for effort, attitude, confidence and heart," said Schuster. "It's something my dad and I came up with."

In the months to come, Schuster hopes to get an invitation for Subjunior/Junior Powerlifting Worlds, which will be competed in the Czech Republic later this summer and encompasses all three lifts of powerlifting.

# Seniors athletes commit to collegiate sports

Samantha Lenz  
Opinion Editor

On Feb. 5 many high school seniors finalized their decision on where they will continue with their athletic careers in college. In the 2015 graduating class there are a tremendous amount of students who have decided to continue on with their athletic livelihood.

Four students will be traveling to Brookings, SD. South Dakota State University is a NCAA Division I school. Future Jackrabbits will be senior Jessica Mieras, Elle Carlson, Ben Johnson and Morgan Brower. Mieras plans to continue with basketball. The golf team will gain Carlson. Johnson has committed to swimming, while Brower will be playing tennis.

"I am really excited to take swimming to a Division I level. I have been swimming my whole life and to be able to swim with a scholarship has been my dream

for a long time," said Johnson. "I am also really looking forward to being a part of the team and I could not be more thankful."

Two students will be attending Mount Marty College in Yankton, SD. Mount Marty is a NAIA school. Seniors Reece Mimmack and Kiela Olson will become Lancers. Mimmack will be continuing with baseball, while Olson will be playing softball.

Two athletes will continue their careers at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. The future Bluejays will be seniors Taryn Kloth and Kelsey Johnson, who will both be competing at NCAA Division I level.

"I have put in lots of hours to get where I am, but I could never do it without support of my family and coaches," said Kloth. "I love this sport and I am so excited to continue playing with my talented new teammates at Creighton."

Nathan Byrd will continue his career in the football program in Vermillion, SD. The University of South Dakota Coyotes are an NCAA Division I school.

"I feel blessed to be able to continue doing something I love so much and to be able to try and improve myself even more," said Byrd.

Kylie Lamberty will be a Lion next year at Gustavus Adolphus College. Gustavus Adolphus College is in St. Peter, Minn. She will be continuing her soccer career.

"I am really excited to play a sport in college," said Lamberty. "I do think it'll be a challenge but I know the team will be some of my best friends and it will be an amazing experience. Soccer will keep me active and I'm glad I get to continue to play the sport I love at a college level."

Augustana is a NCAA Division II school in Sioux Falls, SD. This upcoming season, the Vikings will add A.J. Martinec to

their football roster.

"My junior year I realized that I was getting recruited more for football than baseball which made me lean more towards collegiate football. After playing my final high school game it really hit me that this could be the last time I ever play in my life," Martinec. "After that game and that thought I knew I wanted to continue my career and play at the next level."

Meredith Turner has committed to continue with her golf career at Northwest Missouri State University. Northwest Missouri State University is in Maryville, Mo. and is an NCAA Division II school.

"I can't wait to play golf for another four years at a collegiate level," said Turner. "It will be hard being so far away from home but I'm ready to take on the challenge."

Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD. This Division

II School will gain Jenna Helgeson to their softball team.

Kual Jiel will be continuing his football career at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Drake is a NCAA Division I school.

Davis Cowan will be playing basketball at the University of St. Thomas. The University of St. Thomas is in St. Paul Minn., and is a Division III school.

"On all the teams I've been a part of I have developed great relationships with people and I hope to continue that," said Cowan. "I am excited to meet new people that have similar interests and continue playing the sport I love."

Collin Zimprich has decided to commit to play soccer St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn.

The University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota will gain Alyssa Bornhott to their track and cross country team.



# Best wishes for confident graduates

Joan Mahoney  
Guest Writer

In just a few weeks we will be saying goodbye to our seniors, the Class of 2015.

Before we watch them walk across the stage, we pause for a moment to reflect on all that they have brought to OG. The class of 2015 has left its mark on us, and we are better because they walked our halls. Their stamp will forever be on our third Blue Ribbon School award, not just because of the nationally acclaimed balloon photo, but also because of their incredible talent and work ethic.

In fact, they have been a part of 18 state athletic championships, and they have played a key role in OG being named a National School of Excellence in Speech for two consecutive years.

But more importantly, they have had a lasting impact on our faith community. Their strong at-

tendance at our weekly liturgies, their leadership in our Outreach and Campus Ministry activities, and their growth in their own personal faith lives have served as an inspiration to all of us.

And, OG has also left its mark on the class of 2015. The smiling confident graduates we will watch receive their diplomas are indeed not the same people they were four years ago when they entered our doors full of insecurities and anxious about what lie ahead.

Through many successes and challenges, these young people have felt the love and care of a dedicated faculty. They have grown in their ability to lift each other up and to support each other through good times and bad. As they join the distinguished list of O’Gorman Alumni, we are all proud and blessed to have been part of their journey.

Congratulations and God Bless the Class of 2015!

## Senior most likely to...

- Colonize Mars

1. Madeline Loger	1. Karl Shlanta
2. Hannah Messier	2. Teddy Schwebach
3. Michaela Goldammer	3. Joe Schmidt
4. Christina Salter	4. Graham Sudenga
5. Cecily Fogarty	5. Peter Sorenson
- Travel the World

1. Emily Groth	1. Sam Lacasse
2. Abi Kosiak	2. Jeremy Bird
3. Elizabeth Pollard	3. Danny Fritz
4. Liesel Julsrud	4. Ryan O’Connell
5. Marisa Moser	5. Daniel Waddell
- Cure Cancer

1. Mira Yousef	1. Phillip Petrasko
2. Hope Bleeker	2. Andrew Mohama
3. Madeline Loger	3. Connor McMahon
4. Kylie Lamberty	4. Daniel Stork
5. Destinee Mercer	5. Daniel Waddell
- Become the next T. Denny Sanford

1. Abi Kosiak	1. Brett Duffek
2. Mira Yousef	2. Davis Cowan
3. Liesel Julsrud	3. Jonah Dally
4. Rachel Hickman	4. Daniel Waddell
5. Samantha Lenz	5. Lucas Broin
- Become President

1. Abby Baka	1. Brett Duffek
2. Mira Yousef	2. Jonah Dally
3. Liesel Julsrud	3. Daniel Waddell
4. Andrea Veloira	4. Luke Miller
5. Rachel Hickman	5. Ryan O’Connell
- Host the Oscars

1. Abby Baka	1. Sam Maxwell
2. Alyse Brown	2. Danny Fritz
3. Katie Kunkel	3. Graham Sudenga
4. Mattie Penisten	4. Matt Billion
5. Ingrid Olson	5. Luke Miller
- Win a Nobel Peace Prize

1. Kaitlin Scott	1. Phillip Petrasko
2. Mira Yousef	2. Karl Shlanta
3. Hope Bleeker	3. Danny Fritz
4. Maggie Eckerstorfer	4. Matthew Moe
5. Mary Motz	5. Bailey Lauret
- Write a Best-selling Novel

1. Cheyenne Chontos	1. Sam Lacasse
2. Madeline Loger	2. Graham Sudenga
3. Cecily Fogarty	3. Jackson Frey
4. Abby Baka	4. Cody Bloomer
5. Maria Hassel	5. Robert Mehlafl
- Become Principal of O’Gorman

1. Kylie Lamberty	1. Luke Miller
2. Hope Bleeker	2. Ryan O’Connell
3. Miki Kennerly	3. Cody Bloomer
4. Rachel Hickman	4. AJ Martinec
5. Shannan McQuade	5. Jonah Dally
- Become the next CEO of Google

1. Mira Yousef	1. Daniel Waddell
2. Kimberly Schulte	2. Jack Donovan
3. Hope Bleeker	3. Jonah Dally
4. Elizabeth Pollard	4. Lucas Broin
5. Abi Kosiak	5. Danny Fritz
- Be a Musical Guest on SNL

1. Alyse Brown	1. Christian Heisler
2. Maria Hassel	2. Sam Maxwell
3. Katie Kunkel	3. Graham Sudenga
4. Rachel Hickman	4. Bailey Lauret
5. Abi Kosiak	5. Danny Fritz



### Favorite Teacher Quotes

Phillip Petrasko:  
“Yay! Gravity is still working.”  
- Ms. Schnell

Kaitlin Scott:  
“That would be cash money. Okay, I’m sorry, that was my attempt at being cool.”  
- Mr. Gordon

Natalie Hartung:  
“Shh...Shh.”  
- Mr. Lebrun

Racheal Haiar:  
“Canton? Can you hear me?”  
- Mr. Keppen

Sadie Facile:  
“I don’t do subtraction. That’s peasant’s work.”  
- Mr. Lindemann


Mary Motz:  
“Door prizes! Okay, here’s what we’re going to do: little cookies!”  
- Mr. Gordon

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

*Class of*

**2015**



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# We're off to great places...

U.S. Air Force  
Bradley Balzer

Augustana College  
Cheyenne Chontos  
AJ Martinec  
Matthew Moe  
Kelsey Renczykowski  
Elizabeth Schlenker  
Peter Sorenson

Aveda Institute  
Elena Lawler

Boston Conservatory  
Alyse Brown

The Art Institute of Portland  
Oregon  
Rylee Skillman

Benedictine College  
Jackie Marko  
Shannan McQuade  
Desiree Mercer  
Nate Sotebeer  
Kimberly Schulte

Creighton University  
Miranda Gerads  
Kelsey Johnson  
Taryn Kloth  
Teresa Kooima

Dakota State University  
Jack Donovan  
Maggie Johnson  
Emily McNerney  
Emily Ortmann  
Austin Schulte

DePaul University  
Jonah Dally

Drake University  
Kual Jiel

Gonzaga University  
William Michels

Gustavus Adolphus College  
Kylie Lamberty

Iowa State University  
Hannah Messier

King's College London  
Marisa Moser

Minnesota State University  
(Moorhead, Minn.)  
Sam Lacasse

Mitchell Technical Institute  
Brendan Logan

Marine Corps  
Aaron larson

Mount Marty College  
Mikayla Kappenman  
Kiela Olson

U.S. Navy  
Logan Iossi

Northwestern University  
Madeline Loger

Northern State University  
Jenna Helgeson

St. Catherine University  
Kylie Schmidt

St. Louis University  
Liesel Julsrud  
Daniel Stork

St. John's University  
Matthew Billion  
Danny Fritz  
Colin Zimprich

St. Olaf College  
Jeremy Bird  
Kaitlin Scott

South Dakota State University  
Samantha Anderson  
Hannah Beacom  
Morgan Brower  
Paige Bultena  
Elle Carlson  
Kaitlyn DeMarais  
Derek Domangue  
Hannah Elsinger  
Mackenzie Hagerty  
Aidan Hart  
Daniel Hasvold  
Cole Hayes  
Megan Hayes  
Ben Johnson  
Ryan Johnson  
Ellen Keena  
Emilie Kennedy  
Lily Koob

Maria Lehnen  
Destinee Mercer  
Jessica Mieras  
Michael Palmer  
Mattie Penisten  
Joe Schnetter  
Leo Scholten  
Easton Schuster  
Teddy Schwebach  
Katelyn Smook  
Teddy Steffl  
Emily Ullom  
Kristina Wagner  
Alivia Wuestewald

South Dakota School  
of Mines and Technology  
Josh Dardis  
Jamie Smith

Southeast Technical Institute  
Cecily Fogarty  
Makayla Mergen

Southwest Minnesota State  
University  
Jackson Frey

University of Kansas  
Natalie Hartung  
Nora Strom

University of Mary  
Anne Simon  
Alyssa Bornhoft

University of Minnesota  
Maria Hassel  
Katie Kunkel  
Isabelle Loudenslager  
Graham Sudenga  
Andrea Veloira  
Daniel Waddell

University of Minnesota  
(Duluth, Minn.)  
Elizabeth Pollard

University of Nebraska  
(Lincoln, Neb.)  
Cami Boldt  
Cody Bloomer  
John Garcia  
Mitchell Jarding  
Sam Maxwell  
Ingrid Olson  
Alyssa Pierson  
John Reznicek  
Christina Salter  
Nicole Schneider  
Trase Venard  
Shaylee Wilcox

University of Notre Dame  
Sadie Facile

University of Sioux Falls  
Caelan Markstrom

University of South Dakota  
Anna Andrews  
Katie Badillo  
Nathan Byrd  
Nelson Dingler  
Kenzie Fischer  
Racheal Haiar  
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Charlie Steffl  
Lauren Weber

University of Washington  
Ramona Alhambra

Utah State University  
Abi Kosiak

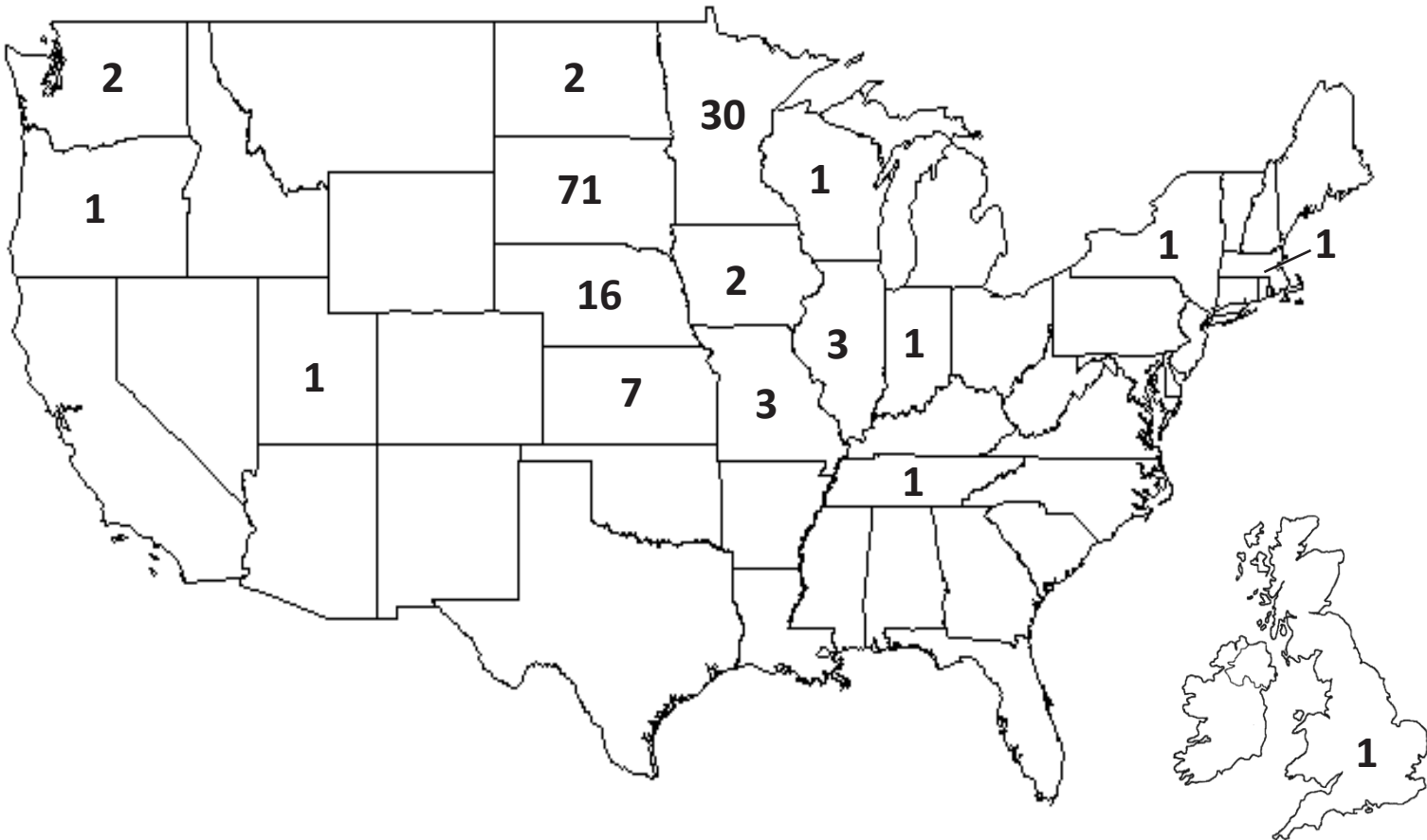
Vanderbilt University  
Mira Yousef

Washington University in St.  
Louis  
Abby Baka

West Point  
Ryan O'Connell

City Year- Americorps  
Maggie Eckerstorfer

Undecided  
Samantha Lenz  
Reilly Olson  
Phillip Petrasko  
Marissa Schroeder  
Adam Tarnasky  
Ethan Wallenberg





## O'Connell accepts appointment to attend U.S. Military Academy

Shreya Chandran  
Activities Co-Editor

The United States Military Academy at West Point accepts only nine percent of applicants a year. Senior Ryan O'Connell will be attending the prestigious academy next year as a cadet.

When deciding between West Point and a traditional college, his choice was not so hard to make.

"West Point was just the best fit for me," said O'Connell. I wasn't too excited about the typical college route and I've always wanted to go to an academy and serve in the military."

The process for applying to West Point is different from that of many other schools.

"The application process was way longer than any other school I've applied to. Aside from the typical college application with transcripts, ACT scores, lists of activities and

recommendations, I also had to pass a medical evaluation and a fitness test," said O'Connell.

"Once all that was in order, I interviewed with nomination panels set up by South Dakota's congressmen. I had to receive a nomination from either John Thune, Tim Johnson or Kristi Noem to be considered for an appointment."

**"I've always wanted to go to an academy and serve in the military."**  
- Ryan O'Connell

But O'Connell said that the process isn't over yet.

"Even with my appointment accepted, I've got even more paperwork and forms to complete," said O'Connell.

But despite the extensive ap-

plication, he is excited for his new school.

"I'm really looking forward to all the opportunities I'll have at West Point that I won't have anywhere else," said O'Connell.

Once he is there, many more possibilities will become available.

"I'm really looking forward to the summer between my sophomore and junior years, where I'll probably be at Airborne school in Georgia," said O'Connell. Going into my senior year I will have the opportunity to train with army units across the United States and the world, or intern at the Pentagon."

In addition to this, he also has the choice of studying at other academies or even other countries.

"Even though I will miss home, I have so many opportunities and I couldn't be more excited," said O'Connell.

## Senior to tutor children as mission to encourage lower city dropout rates

Abby Baka  
Entertainment Editor

This fall senior Maggie Eckerstorfer will be taking a gap year to serve with City Year, a program through Americorps. She will live in Milwaukee, Wis. and work with students and teachers in the city's high need public schools.

"A lot of the schools in the program are on the brink of losing their accreditation," said Eckerstorfer. "I will be working to encourage lower dropout rates." Eckerstorfer will be tutoring elementary school students, mostly in the fifth and sixth grades.

"That is when kids are most influenced to drop out," said Eckerstorfer.

Eckerstorfer began to consider taking a gap year when she started her college search. "I was very uncertain how to choose

a college," said Eckerstorfer. "That's when my dad suggested taking a gap year."

Eckerstorfer researched programs and discovered City Year. "I chose City Year because I didn't want to move around from place to place," said Eckerstorfer. "I also wanted to work on a personal level with young people. I've noticed that I always choose to work with children."

Eckerstorfer works at Child's Play Toys in downtown Sioux Falls, tutors in the summer and volunteers at the Avera Children's Hospital.

After her year with City Year Eckerstorfer plans to attend college. "I want to double major in Spanish and math and take the pre-med path."

"I don't feel nervous for next year. I'm excited to share my love of learning, and inspire kids to finish their high school careers."



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